[29th January 1931

Floods

Damage caused by floods in Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts.

*200. Q.—Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have so far been taken by the Government to ascertain the nature and extent of the damage by floods and rains in the Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts ;

(b) whether final reports have been received by Government from the local officers and whether the reports received will be placed on the table of the House ;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to state the nature and extent of the damage to—

(i) agricultural lands,
(ii) crops,
(iii) irrigation works,
(iv) huts and houses, and
(v) roads and bridges

as ascertained officially, giving particulars with reference to the local areas affected ;

(d) how far the ryots in the affected areas have been disabled from paying kists to Government or paying them on due dates ; and

(e) what measures the Government have ordered and what instructions have been issued to repair the damage under the various heads to afford relief to the poor by grants of money, building materials, and grain or otherwise, and to grant remissions of land revenue on a systematized basis or otherwise?

A.—(a) to (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the paper entitled " A survey of the floods which occurred in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts in October 1930 " copies of which have been laid on the Council Table, and to G.O. No. 93, Revenue, dated the 16th January 1931, which has been made available for the press.

Since the publication of the survey just mentioned, an additional sum of Rs. 6,000 has been sanctioned for the grant of loans to Depressed Classes Co-operative Societies in the Tanjore district.

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he has received any memorials from the ryots of the Tanjore district praying that the payment of kist might be postponed at least by one month or so ? "

The hon. the President :—" Does this arise out of the original question ? "

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Sir, the answer to the whole question is stated to be :—

'The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the paper entitled " A survey of the floods which occurred in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts in October 1930 " copies of which have been laid on the Council Table . . .'

" The whole answer seems to be given in that book. Clause (d) of the question asks 'how far the ryots in the affected areas have been disabled from paying kists to Government or paying them on due dates.' My question is, has the Revenue Member received any memorials from the ryots

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of the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts asking that the payment of kist might be suspended by a month at least. For example, the kist due in January might be paid in February and that for February might be paid in March and so on?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I must ask for notice, as I cannot say straightaway whether there was any memorial to that effect."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether in case such an application has been received, he would sanction the postponement of the kist by a month at least?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I think in certain cases postponement of kists have been made by the Collector. The Collector has power to order the postponement of kists within the fasli, in certain circumstances, and in such a case, it would not be necessary for the Government to interfere."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"That is in cases where Government Orders are passed in respect of areas which have been affected or where there has been a partial failure of crop. But in cases, where owing to the difficulty of payment of kist, memorials have been sent—I do not know whether it is to the Collectors or to the Local Government—that payment of kist might be suspended, because of the difficulty of getting money, etc."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order, that is not a supplementary question. It is giving information."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether in connexion with the measures to be adopted by Government to repair the damage and to afford relief to the people, the question of the diversion of the Vennar into the Coleroon is one of the measures under contemplation?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"At present works are under execution to divert a portion of the flood water that used to go into the Vennar and into the Cauvery above the Cauvery and the Vennar regulators, and thence into the Coleroon, if necessary. But there is no proposal before Government at present to carry out any other scheme for diverting the waters of Vennar into the Coleroon."

Diwan Bahadur R N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Considering the fact that only a portion of the upland floods will be dealt with in the manner stated by the hon. the Revenue Member, will he order an investigation of the other proposals relating to the Vennar floods right up to Pamaniyar?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The local engineers are now investigating those matters."

Mr. T. S RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of constituting a committee consisting of officials and non-officials to enquire and find out the causes of the difficulties of drainage in the delta area and to suggest ways and means for improving the drainage in the delta areas?"

The hon Mr. A. Y. G CAMPBELL:—"I do not think it is necessary to appoint a committee now. We had a committee a few years ago called the 'Cauvery Committee' and we have before the Government the recommendations of that Committee."